



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## 11/19/2013 Minutes

### D R A F T

**VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2013 MEETING**

**RESERVOIR COMMITTEE**  
**Town Hall Annex, First Floor**

**In attendance:** Lisa Fredman, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoyer, Stephan Miller, Michael Ratner, David White.

**Facilitator:** David White

**Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

**2014 meetings:** 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. Next meeting Jan, 21 (none Dec. 2013).

- **Minutes:** The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as presented, but some dates were subsequently changed: October meeting cancelled, November moved up to 11/19.
- **Fall accomplishments:** Town Day participation, cleanup and mulching, planting witch hazels, honeysuckle and bulbs, spreading wood chips on part of path around Res.
- **Fall expenses approved:** Witch-hazels \$625.12, honeysuckles \$59.97, bulbs \$58.90.
- **Signage:** The Town will supply two "Maintained by..." signs, for the garden and the "island." The pictures of plants posted on the individual wooden sign boards we have already installed are fading and will need periodic replacement.

Martine suggested a large sign board with protective Plexiglas on which seasonal information could be posted, about birds and animals as well as plants, and announcements of upcoming activities. Designing one would be a good winter project. Stephan offered to draw up specifications. He also showed samples of small wooden ID signs which he makes for his garden, and offered to make larger ones for the Res garden plants.

- **Postcards:** Stephen makes postcards for the bicycle committee to sell, and he could make some for the Res. He has a pigment printer which uses non-fading colors. We could use Rachel's photos and sell cards e.g. at Town Day, EcoFest, ACA Open Studios.
- **Garden Conditions:** Some things like anemones and phlox on the shady side did very well, and some clumps like Solomon's seal could be broken up. Let's see what comes up in the spring before deciding to move any plants around. The sloping path going through the sunny side is eroding, but it should not be replaced by steps because it is used by strollers and bikes. We should ask the DPW what to do about it. The island should have some not-too-tall shrubs added in the middle, e.g. viburnum, lowbush blueberry, dwarf foothergilla.
- **Invasives:** Japanese knotweed is rampant, especially near the garden and along the path to the parking lot. There is Oriental bittersweet in some places. People are still using the latter for wreaths. An article should be put in the *Advocate* to warn them to dispose of such wreaths properly, in the trash and wrapped so that berries are not scattered. The knotweed could be controlled somewhat by cutting several times during the growing season. We could try to do this with volunteers, or DPW could be asked (but they are quite busy). Covering the cleared area with black plastic is probably not a good remedy since it sterilizes the topsoil and does not really kill the knotweed whose roots can go down as far as ten feet.
- **Outreach:** We should establish a liaison with the Menotomy Bird Club – e.g. make a presentation to them, co-sponsor a bird walk, post "seen this week" lists, ask what plants are best for birds. Ann will follow up. We could also sponsor tours of the Res after updating the guide that was created years ago for a school tour. David will email the text of the guide.
- **NWF certification:** Martine will look into having the garden certified as wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

- **Friends of Parks:** This is an umbrella group for Friends groups to work together and share ideas. It met recently and wants to put on a fundraising event this winter for dealing with problems that are common to parks.
- **Miscellaneous:**
  - The LexFarm group is planning a trail through Busa Farm from the Res to Great Meadows.
  - The Arlington Land Trust annual meeting will be January 27. Donations to the Land Trust can be designated for the Res.
  - On January 30 Martine will make a presentation to the Garden Club on the habitat garden.
  - Our annual report for the Town report is due January 15.